AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application:

Claims 1 to 10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A plant for producing a nonwoven web of fibers of fibrous material which comprises a device for defibrating fiber material, at least one head for forming a fiber web on a endless forming wire which, during operation, runs mainly horizontally, a first transport fan for transporting defibrated fibers to the forming head via a first air duct, a second transport fan to extract nits from the forming head via a second air duct, a separator, connected to the second air duct, for separating nits and well-opened fibers; and a nits-opener to convert the separated nits into well-opened fibers.

12. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the nits-opener is a hammer mill.

13. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the nits-opener is a refiner, designed to defibrate the nits between two grinding discs.

14. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the nits-opener is constructed in the form of a card.

15. (New) The plant of claim 11, which further comprises a third transport fan for returning the separated, well-opened fibers to the forming head via a third air duct.

16. (New) The plant of claim 15, which further comprises a fourth transport fan to remove the separated nits from the nits separator via a fourth air duct.

17. (New) The plant of claim 16, wherein the fourth air duct extends between the nits separator and the nits-opener and is connected to the forming head via a fifth air duct with a fifth transport fan for returning the opened nits to the forming head.

18. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the defibrating device comprises a hammer mill.

19. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the nits separator is a forming head.

20. (New) The plant of claim 11, wherein the nits separator is a cyclone.

21. (New) A plant for producing a nonwoven web of fibers of fibrous material which comprises a device for defibrating fiber material, at least one head for forming a fiber web on a endless forming wire which, during operation, runs mainly horizontally, a first transport fan for transporting defibrated fibers to the forming head via a first air duct, a second transport fan to extract nits from the forming head via a second air duct, wherein the second air duct is a separate and distinct component from the first air duct, and a separator, connected to the second air duct, for separating nits and well-opened fibers.

22. (New) The plant of claim 21, which further comprises a third transport fan for returning the separated, well-opened fibers to the forming head via a third air duct.

23. (New) The plant of claim 22, which further comprises a fourth transport fan to remove the separated nits from the nits separator via a fourth air duct.

24. (New) The plant of claim 21, which further comprises a fourth transport fan to remove the separated nits from the nits separator via a fourth air duct.

25. (New) The plant of claim 21, wherein the defibrating device comprises a hammer mill.

26. (New) The plant of claim 21, wherein the nits separator is a forming head.

27. (New) The plant of claim 21, wherein the nits separator is a cyclone.

28. (New) A plant for producing a nonwoven web of fibers of fibrous material which comprises a hammer mill for defibrating fiber material, at least one head for forming a fiber web on a endless forming wire which, during operation, runs mainly horizontally, a first transport fan for transporting defibrated fibers to the forming head via a first air duct, a second transport fan to extract nits from the forming head via a second air duct, and a cyclone, connected to the second air duct, for separating nits and well-opened fibers.

29. (New) The plant of claim 28, which further comprises a third transport fan for returning the separated, well-opened fibers to the forming head via a third air duct.

30. (New) The plant of claim 29, which further comprises a fourth transport fan to remove the separated nits from the nits separator via a fourth air duct.